Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas control catalyst, comprising:

a porous base material;

a catalyst supporting layer which is formed on a surface of the porous base material and which supports noble metal and a NO_x storage material; and

a lower layer which is formed at a portion that is in the porous base material and that is below the catalyst supporting layer, and which supports a NO_x storage material,

wherein a concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is ~~higher~~ greater than a concentration of the NO_x storage material which is supported by the catalyst supporting layer, and

wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material to be supported by the lower layer is determined based on a pore volume formed in the lower layer.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~manufacturing~~ method of manufacturing an exhaust gas control catalyst, the method comprising:

forming a layer which supports a NO_x storage material in advance in a porous base material at a surface portion; and

forming a catalyst supporting layer which supports noble metal and a NO_x storage material on a surface of the lower layer,

wherein a concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is greater than a concentration of the NO_x storage material which is supported by the catalyst supporting layer, and

wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material to be supported by the lower layer is determined based on a pore volume formed in the lower layer.

3. (Canceled)

4. (New) The exhaust gas control catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is 10 weight percent or more than the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the catalyst supporting layer.

5. (New) The exhaust gas control catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is 50 weight percent or more than the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the catalyst supporting layer.

6. (New) The exhaust gas control catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is 100 weight percent or more than the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the catalyst supporting layer.

7. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is 10 weight percent or more than the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the catalyst supporting layer.

8. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is 50 weight percent or more than the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the catalyst supporting layer.

9. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is 100 weight percent or more than the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the catalyst supporting layer.

10. (New) The exhaust gas control catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material to be supported by the lower layer is further determined based on a water absorption rate of the lower layer.

11. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the concentration of the NO_x storage material to be supported by the lower layer is further determined based on a water absorption rate of the lower layer.